

Benefits Administrator Memo

#01-13

To: Benefits Administrators
From: Charles S. Reed, Associate Director
State and Local Health Benefits Programs
CC: All OHB
Date: September 7, 2001
Re: State Retiree Health Benefits Program

Statewide Meetings on the Retiree Health Benefits Program

The Department of Human Resource Management is pleased to announce a series of statewide meetings for retirees who participate in the State Retiree Health Benefits Program. These meetings will offer an overview of the program and an opportunity for retirees to ask questions and provide comments. We are enthusiastic about establishing a dialogue with retirees, helping them to better understand their health benefits program, and getting their input. Attached is a flyer which we would appreciate your posting in appropriate locations. We encourage you to share this schedule with retirees and with employees who maintain contact with retirees. You may also direct interested individuals to the DHRM Web site at www.dhrm.state.va.us.

Retiree Fact Sheets - Update

You may have noticed that additional Retiree Fact Sheets have been posted on the DHRM Web site. Since the original distribution of Fact Sheets #1—5, five additional sheets are now available at www.dhrm.state.va.us/services/health/retiree.htm. These include:

- Retiree Fact Sheet #6 ***Enrolling in a Medicare Managed Care Plan***
- Retiree Fact Sheet #7 ***Special Retiree Categories***
- Retiree Fact Sheet #8 ***Prescription Drugs***
- Retiree Fact Sheet #9 ***Appeals Process***
- Retiree Fact Sheet #10 ***Survivor Benefits***

The full complement of ten fact sheets replaces the ***Retiree Sourcebook*** and may be reproduced locally for those who do not have Web access. They are not available at Commonwealth Mailing Systems.

New Advantage 65 Member Handbook

The new Advantage 65 Member handbook, developed for use by both state retiree group members and The Local Choice members, will be available for your orders on Tuesday, September 11. Please use the current Materials Order Form. The member handbook will be mailed to all Advantage 65 members the first week in September, so it should not be necessary to order many additional copies. The new member handbook is also on the Department of Human Resource Management's Web site at www.dhrm.state.va.us/hbenefit.htm.

Health Benefit Membership Rules for VSDP/LTD Participants

A number of questions have surfaced regarding the administration of health benefits for employees on long term disability (LTD). In response to those inquiries, a set of rules has been developed to ensure that employees on LTD are handled in a consistent manner. Those rules are attached for your reference. Keep in mind that VSDP allows employees to continue their state health plan coverage during LTD, but participants must pay the full cost of coverage. Transfer to LTD status in BES will automatically generate a direct bill for the current health plan coverage. It is important that those on LTD understand the significance of waiving their health plan coverage as opposed to allowing it to be terminated for non-payment of premiums as outlined in the attached guidelines. It is also important to note that, unlike active employees, LTD participants and their enrolled family members will be required to select a plan that coordinates with Medicare at the time of Medicare eligibility.

Enclosures:

Statewide Retiree Meeting Flyer
Retiree Fact Sheets #6—10 (for non e-mail recipients)
VSDP/LTD Rules

